

REMARKS

The Official Action of August 1, 2006, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 1-4 and 7-18, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled. Claims 1-4 and 7-18 remain in the application for consideration.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claim 1 and claims 5-7 and 9-13 under 37 CFR §1.75(c), Applicant has amended claim 1 to eliminate the antecedent and parenthesis problem identified by the Examiner, canceled claims 5 and 6 and eliminated multiple dependency problems in claims 7 and 9-13. Applicant respectfully submits that these objections have now been overcome.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-4, 8, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kelling '105 and claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelling in view of Farley '732. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as applied to the claims as amended.

The claimed invention is directed to a device for melting and dispensing very precise quantities of low viscosity material in a variable volume.

In comparison, Kelling provides an apparatus for dispensing a medium capable of flowing that undergoes a change to a state of lower viscosity but does not mention an active cooling by the use of a cooling agent. A major difference is also the area in which said cooling occurs, that is in Kelling's invention near the pump using a heat shield, whereas in the claimed invention it is done using channels inside the heating grill, thus allowing a precise control of melted medium by actively cooling the grill. Cooling of the outlet only, as proposed by Kelling, does not stop the further melting of the medium by the grill which leads to an excess of melted material and a hardening of the material in the outlet which might cause the equipment to halt.

Kelling does not mention the heating of the hoses that transport the liquefied medium, which in the claimed invention stops the melted medium from cooling and hardening inside such hoses.

The claimed invention is intended to supply a variable volume of low viscosity material, whereas Kelling proposes a solution for "... maintaining a substantially constant-volume supply of molten thermoplastic material...".

Kelling does not mention the material that the apparatus is mainly designed for, that being PUR in this case.

Farley provides a follower plate, but a passive one, meaning that said plate exercises constant pressure on the medium, whereas in the claimed invention's approach, the plate is active during the melting and deactivated during cooling, which further benefits the quick termination of the melting process. Also, Farley proposes heating elements in the follower plate, which in the claimed invention would be contrary to the purpose of the invention, that being melting only of the lower part of the medium.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention patentably defines over the cited prior art combination in light of the clear structural differences noted above.

To assist the Examiner's review, Applicant has enclosed herewith a comparison of the features common to the claimed invention and Kelling and Farley.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently

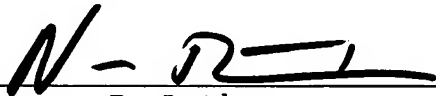
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pertinent to warrant their applications against any of  
applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are  
earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Feature	Robatec	Kelling	Farley	Role
Cooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inside grill (claim 1)</li> <li>• In at least one channel in the outlet zone (claim 5)</li> <li>• Circulating cooler (claim 6)</li> </ul> <p>(ACTIVE by use of a coolant or gas)</p>	Cooler area near the pump + a heat shield (PASSIVE) No active cooling of the heating device.		Control of melted medium by actively cooling the grill. Cooling of the outlet only does not stop the further melting of the medium by the grill.
Heatable storage unit	claim 8	Yes	-	
Heatable hoses/ dispensing devices	Claim 11	None	-	Stopping the melted medium from cooling and hardening inside the hoses.
Follower plate	Active during the melting and deactivated during cooling (claim 18)	None	Passive (exercising constant pressure)	Stopping the follower plate from exercising pressure further benefits the quick termination of the melting process.
Medium	PUR (claim 13)	? thermoplastic resin	-	PUR is a very difficult material to handle, with the disadvantage that if hardened removal is very difficult and time consuming.
Activation of a cooling device	Method claim 14	None	-	Stopping further melting of the medium
Pump (dispensing of low viscosity material)	Switched on as soon as sufficient medium capable of flowing is present. (claim 15)	Constant pressure, which means a minimum level of liquid medium must ALWAYS be present in the		Kelling proposes a solution for "...maintaining a substantially constant-volume supply of molten thermoplastic material..." while the present invention proposes a solution for supplying a variable volume of low viscosity material.